



Targets and Countermeasures

The Missile Defense Agency's Targets and Countermeasures component designs, develops, fabricates and provides capabilities-driven, reliable and cost-effective ballistic missile targets and countermeasures to be used in the Ballistic Missile Defense System's test and assessment program. This is a rigorous program to develop targets that will provide realistic tests for the system, as well as performing flight support and post-test data reduction.



Overview

- Ensures that targets and countermeasures leverage new and available technologies from domestic and foreign sources
- Targets accurately simulate characteristics of real world threats. Targets include: launch systems, payloads (including countermeasures), re-entry vehicles, and instrumentation and flight controls to test the performance of sensors and weapons in the Ballistic Missile Defense System
- Advanced target applications in progress include air-launched targets, and advanced measurement and instrumentation systems
- Exploration on the use of long-range heavy lift targets, mobile launch platforms and the development of advanced countermeasures and payloads
- For cost-cutting, targets are made with several different military components that are no longer in use
- Since 1993, programs have launched more than 120 targets, ranging from short-range to long-range target systems